

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4245

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

AMEMBASSY ROME

USNMR SHAPE BE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS NATO 05449

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN ARMY PROMOTIONAL LAW

REF: USNATO 1079 (DTG 281724Z FEB 77)

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE ITALIAN DRC REP (VICE ADMIRAL V. PATRELLI COMPAGNANO) THE FORMAL NOTIFICATION TRANSMITTED BELOW OF PASSAGE OF THE PROMOTIONAL LAW FOR THE ITALIAN ARMY. THIS IS THE THIRD OF THREE PROMOTIONAL LAWS; THE NAVY LAW WAS PASSED IN 1975 AND THE AIR FORCE LAW IN FEBRUARY 1977. THE 1115 BILLION LIRE, WHICH IS APPARENTLY IN CONSTANT 1977 PRICES, IS SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE 1100 BILLION LIRE ORIGINALLY PROPOSED IN 1975 BUT FALLS FAR SHORT OF COVERING THE INFLATION WHICH HAS OCCURRED BETWEEN 1975 AND 1977 WHILE THE LAW WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

2. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT TELL FOR CERTAIN WHAT SYSTEMS ARE AUTHORIZED FROM ITALIAN ARMY PROMOTIONAL LAW FUNDS, WE UNCLASSIFIED

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DOUBT IF IT PROVIDES ANY PROGRAMS NOT ALREADY INCLUDED IN THE COUNTRY REPLY TO DPQ(76). THE PASSAGE OF THE LAW DOES, HOWEVER, PROVIDE OFFICIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MOD TO PROCURE THOSE SYSTEMS ALREADY REPORTED TO NATO.

3. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT:

- I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT THE LAW ABOVE MENTIONED HAS PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES OF THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT AND IT WILL COME INTO FORCE AS SOON AS PUBLISHED BY THE "OFFICIAL GAZETTE," PRESUMABLY WITHIN THE CURRENT MONTH.

- THE LAW WILL BE EFFECTIVE FOR A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS STARTING FROM 1977. IT, ALSO, AUTHORIZES THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE TO BRING ABOUT SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.

- THE ALLOCATIONS TOTAL TO 1115 BILLION LIRE SUBJECTED TO INCREASE ACCORDING TO THE DEGREE OF PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAM ITSELF.

- IN SUBSTANCE ALSO FOR THIS LAW THE COST OF THE PROGRAMS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IS ALWAYS RELATED TO THE RATE OF INFLATION.

- THE PROGRAMS OF MODERNIZATION CONCERN THE SUPPLY OF:

-- ARTILLERY AND MISSILE SYSTEMS FOR GROUND DEFENCE, FOR ANTI-TANKS, FOR LOW AND VERY LOW LEVELS AIR DEFENCE;

-- HELICOPTERS, WHEELED VEHICLES AND ARMOURED TANKS TO INCREASE THE COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UNITS;

-- COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOR COMMAND AND CONTROL OF FIRE AND MANOUVERS.

END TEXT OF LETTER. STREATROR

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Message Attributes

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